

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9895

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VALLETA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

ALL EC CAPITALS 1276

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: CGT AND ETUC

REF: PARIS 26449 (NOTAL)

1. ETUC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS INDICATING

THAT ETUC PRESIDENT VETTER WILL MEET WITH FRENCH CGT GENERAL
SECRETARY SEGUY ON NOVEMBER 12 IN BRUSSELS. THE MEETING WILL PRECEDE
THE NOVEMBER 14 ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE ETUC
SPONSORED PUBLIC MEETING LATER THE SAME DAY WHICH HAS BEEN CALLED
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TO DRAMATIZE THE NOVEMBER 18 EC TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT.

OUR ETUC SOURCES EMPHASIZE THAT WHILE THE VETTER-SEGUY MEETING WILL CENTER ON THE CGT'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE TUC, IT SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS THE BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS. THEY POINT OUT THAT VETTER HAS BEEN UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SINCE DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR TO HOLD "TALKS" WITH THE CGT WITHOUT MANDATE OR AUTHORITY TO MAKE COMMITMENTS.

2. VETTER HAS INTENTIONALLY AVOIDED MEETING WITH SEGUY WHICH MANY SEASONED OBSERVERS ATTRIBUTE TO INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN THE GERMAN DGB. THOSE PROBLEMS, WE ARE TOLD, CENTER ON GERMAN METAL-WORKER LEADER AND DGB STRONGMAN EUGENE LOEGERER'S ADAMANT OPPOSITION TO CGT ADMISSION. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, LOEDERER HAS TOLD VETTER TO EITHER TOE THE LINE ON THE CGT OR PREPARE FOR A POLITICAL BATTERING IN THE DGB.

3. COMMENT: UNDER ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES VETTER'S PROCRASTINATION COULD BE CALCULATED TO ENGENDER SOME STRONG CRITICISM WITHIN THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PARTICULARLY FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BELGIAN FGTB AND BRITISH TUC WHO SUPPORT CGT ADMISSION. HOWEVER, THE CGT CONTINUES TO PLAY AN OBSTRUCTIONIST ROLE IN THE EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMUNITY BODIES WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR EVEN THE MOST ARDENT PROPONENTS OF CGT MEMBERSHIP TO TAKE VETTER TO TASK OR OTHERWISE EXERT PRESSURES ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE INCREASING SIGNS HERE IN BRUSSELS THAT CGT ADMISSION MAY BE "JUST A QUESTION OF TIME." THE GERMANS ARE SUPPORTED IN THEIR OPPOSITION BY THE ITALIAN UNIONS, THE FRENCH FO AND THE DUTCH PROTESTANT UNION, BUT A MAJORITY OF ETUC AFFILIATES ARE UNOPPOSED TO IF NOT OPENLY IN FAVOR OF CGT ADMISSION. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON CGT COMPORTMENT IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, BUT AT THIS STAGE WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH THE INEVITABILITY OF ITS EVENTUAL ADMISSION TO THE ETUC.
MORRIS

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